



NEWS RELEASE
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Lovingood backs Prime Healthcare rescue plan



First District Supervisor Robert A. Lovingood Monday testified before a California Attorney General's panel in support of Dr. Prem Reddy and Prime Healthcare's proposed purchase of six troubled hospitals around the state.

Lovingood was among an impressive list of physicians, healthcare professionals and community leaders who are urging the State Attorney General to approve the purchase of the financially struggling hospitals operated by the Daughters of Charity Health System.

"Dr. Reddy and his company have created 35,000 jobs and have saved a number of failing hospitals in the past," said Lovingood, who has known the Apple Valley resident for more than 20 years. "Dr. Reddy has also been an extremely generous friend to many High Desert civic and charitable groups."

Last year, Dr. Reddy committed \$2 million to help Victor Valley College complete the construction and equipping of a new health and sciences building. The gift will be the single largest donation in the college's 53-year history.

Lovingood said Dr. Reddy is a remarkable example of an immigrant who rose from very humble beginnings to become a cardiologist and founder/CEO of a leading American healthcare provider.

Numerous doctors told the panel how Prime Healthcare has repeatedly rescued financially distressed, safety-net hospitals and increased quality of care to patients. Many nurses and healthcare workers in the crowd at Bateman Hall in Lynwood wore T-shirts urging approval of the proposed purchase. The purchase is expected to save many thousands of jobs and preserve healthcare in communities from Lynwood and Los Angeles to San Jose. None of the Daughters of Charity hospitals are in the High Desert.

"Through its efforts and expertise, Prime Healthcare has saved countless lives, thousands of jobs, and in the process transformed struggling hospitals like the Daughters of Charity hospitals into thriving community assets that continue to provide access to quality healthcare for the communities they serve," Lovingood wrote in a separate letter to Attorney General Kamala Harris.

Prime Healthcare hospitals have been recognized among the "100 Top Hospitals" in the nation 27 times by Truven Health Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters), and Prime Healthcare as a whole has been recognized as one of the "15 Top Health Systems" in the nation three times in the past six years.